

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02974 041150Z

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ACTION FBOE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 A-01 SY-05 SSO-00 /017 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4162

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2974

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD, SY

SUBJ: ALTERATIONS TO AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE

REF: DAMASCUS OM DATED MARCH 14, 1975 AND
TWOHIE/MCCORMICK TELCON AUGUST 1, 1975.

1. THE AMBASSADOR'S PRESENT OFFICE AREA CONSISTS OF 42.28 SQ. METERS. IN TRYING TO CONSOLIDATE THE FIRST FLOOR BY RE-ARRANGING THE AMBASSADOR'S, DCM'S AND THE SECRETARY'S OFFICES, AND IN TRYING TO UTILIZE THE ADDITIONAL FLOOR AREA OF THE NEWLY ENCLOSED PORCH INTO THE AMBASSADOR'S NEW OFFICES, A MAJOR PROBLEM HAS EVOLVED. THE AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE IN THE NEW LAYOUT WOULD REMAIN APPROXIMATELY THE SAME SIZE BUT IT WOULD BE LITERALLY CUT INTO TWO SEGMENTS BECAUSE OF THE TWO REMAINING STRUCTURAL COLUMNS WHICH WILL BE LEFT WHEN THE EXISTING STEEL BAR GRILLS AND FRENCH DOORS ARE REMOVED.. (SEE FIRST TWO COLUMNS FROM RIGHT TO LEFT SHOWN IN PHOTOGRAPH NO. 6 ENCLOSED WITH OM OF MARCH 14, 1975.) THE TWO LARGE COLUMNS ARE LOCATED NEAR THE CENTER OF THE NEW OFFICE AREA AND ARE APPROXIMATELY 16" X 32" IN SIZE. LEAVING THE COLUMNS IN PLACE PRECLUDES A USEFUL LAYOUT OF THE OFFICE. BY REMOVING THEM THE OFFICE WILL OPEN UP INTO A SPACIOUS AND FUNCTIONAL ARRANGEMENT BEST SUITED TO THE AMBASSADOR'S NEEDS.

2. LOCAL ENG/ARCHITECT IZZAT CHATTA HAS AGREED AND
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 02974 041150Z

SUPPLIED ENGINEERING DRAWING TO SHOW THAT THE

TWO LOAD-BEARING COLUMNS CAN BE REMOVED AND THEIR FIRST FLOOR LOADS TRANSFERRED TO A POURED-IN-PLACE REINFORCED CONCRETE BEAM, WHICH WOULD BE KEYED 20" INTO OPPOSING WALLS. THE PROPOSED NEW BEAM WOULD HAVE 10 EACH 20 MM Ø DEFORMED RODS IN THE LOWER SECTION, AND 6 EACH 20 MM Ø RODS IN THE UPPER SECTION. THE PLANNED CROSS-SECTION SIZE OF THE BEAM IS APPROXIMATELY 20" X 32". GSO MEDLIN AGREES THAT THE PROPOSED BEAM WILL BE STRUCTURALLY SOUND. THE OFFICES OF THE DEFENSE ATTACHE IS LOCATED ABOVE THE AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE. THE ESTIMATED COST OF REMOVING TWO COLUMNS AND INSTALLING REINFORCED CONCRETE BEAM COMPLETE IS DOLLARS 3,525.

3. A NEW TRANSVERSE WALL OF HOLLOW MASONRY UNITS WILL BE INSTALLED TO DIVIDE THE AMBASSADOR'S PRESENT OFFICE TO PROVIDE OFFICE SPACE FOR HIS SECRETARY. THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE NEW WALL INCLUDING DOORS, BUILT-IN EXPENDABLE SUPPLIES CABINET AND ALLIED WORK IS DOLLARS 2,330. LOCALLY MADE FINE QUALITY NUT-WOOD PANNELLING WOULD BE INSTALLED ON TWO ADJACENT PLASTERED WALLS IN THE AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE TO IMPROVE THE ESTHETIC APPEARANCE. THE NEW PANELING WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 12 LINEAL METERS IN LENGTH. ESTIMATED COST OF PANELING, LABOR AND ASSOCIATED WORK IS DOLLARS 1,145.

4. NEW DRAPES NEED TO BE INSTALLED FULL LENGTH ALONG THE NEW ENCLOSED PORCH AREA PERIMETER, A LENGTH OF 12.50 METERS. ESTIMATED COST DOLLARS 1,250.

5. FOR THE ABOVE ADDITIONAL WORK, MATERIALS, PAINTING AND REQUIRED REFINISHING, THE POST URGENTLY NEEDS DOLLARS 8,250 IN ORDER TO PROCEED WITH ACCOMPLISHING THE WORK HAS PRESENTLY PLANNED. UPON RECEIVING THE REQUIRED FUNDS IT IS ANTICIPATED THE PROJECT CAN BE COMPLETED WITHIN APPROXIMATELY 6 WEEKS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DOLLARS 8,250 BE PROVIDED IN ORDER THAT THE ABOVE PROJECT CAN BE COMPLETED ASAP.
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PAGE 03 DAMASC 02974 041150Z

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